U.S. Department of Justice



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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

FELON PLEADS TO BANK ROBBERY AND GUN CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today announced that Ronald Wilson, 35, of Nashua, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty in the United States District Court in Concord to one count of bank robbery and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The charges stem from the January 28, 2003 robbery of the Bank of New Hampshire, 160 Broad Street, Nashua, New Hampshire.

Wilson pleaded guilty to entering the bank at approximately 10:30 a.m. and approaching a teller with a note that read, "Put the money in the bag. I have a gun." The teller put approximately \$4,895 in a grocery shopping bag provided by the defendant. The investigation developed information that lead to Wilson's arrest on February 4, 2003 at a Windham hotel. A Jennings 9 MM handgun with an obliterated serial number was recovered a short time thereafter from the engine compartment of a vehicle registered to Wilson.

Wilson will be sentenced on July 18, 2003. The statutory maximum sentence for bank robbery is 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. The statutory maximum sentence for the felon in possession charge is 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. Richards may face an enhanced penalty if he qualifies as a career offender under the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A person qualifies as a career offender if he has two or more prior felony convictions for either a controlled substance offense or a violent crime.

United States Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "My office remains dedicated to the prosecution of those individuals who are career criminals, a class of criminals that Congress has explicitly stated are individuals who engage in continued criminal activity and should face significant punishment. The United States Attorney's Office is committed to using the tools provided by Congress to remove repeat offenders from society." U.S. Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the Nashua Police Department and the Windham Police Department for the quick capture of the defendant. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.